

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 USSS-00 SY-05 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 /131 W
----- 097059

P R 182030Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7941

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 1500

E.O. 11652: GDS WITH XGDS-1 SEGMENT.

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, OVIP (WILLIAMS, ERIC), TD, US, XL

SUBJ: TRINIDAD PRIME MINISTER PROPOSES SPECIAL

LAW OF SEA REGIME FOR CARIBBEAN FOR DISCUSSION

WITH SECRETARY

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 1467

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

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1. FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS'

PROPOSALS ON A SPECIAL MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL LAW OF THE SEA REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPED FROM COMBINATION OF THIRTY-MINUTE PRIVATE CONVERSATION WHICH I HAD WITH DR. WILLIAMS ON EVENING OF JUNE 17, TWO FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS TODAY WITH MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND CAREFUL READING OF WILLIAMS' MAY 15 SPEECH TO THE PEOPLES NATIONAL MOVEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN SEVERAL OTHER TELEGRAMS. THIS TOPIC OF THE LAW OF THE SEA REGIME IN THE CARIBBEAN IS PRINCIPAL MATTER DR. WILLIAMS HOPES TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON CURRENT TRIP ABROAD LAUNCHED EARLY TODAY. (NOTE: NARRATIVE BELOW CAN BE EASILY ILLUSTRATED BY REFERENCE TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE GEOGRAPHER CHART NO. 562101 OF NOVEMBER 1973 ENTITLED COMPOSITE THEORETICAL DIVISION OF THE SEABED.)

2. DR. WILLIAMS POINTS OUT THAT IF THE CARIBBEAN IS DIVIDED UP INTO ECONOMIC ZONES ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS TAKING SHAPE AT THE UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, IT WILL LEAVE MOST OF THE ISLAND STATES SEVERELY ZONE LOCKED AND, DUE TO VENEZUELAN AND COLUMBIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER SOME INSIGNIFICANT CAYS AND REEFS FAR FROM THEIR SHORES, WILL GIVE THOSE TWO STATES AN INORDINATE SHARE OF THE CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC RESOURCE AREA. THE DETAILS OF THE STATISTICS AND DATA IN DR. WILLIAMS' DISCUSSION OF THESE ALLEGED ANOMALIES ARE DRAWN, WE UNDERSTAND, FROM A DUTCH STUDY ON ZONE-LOCKED STATES WHICH WAS RECENTLY GIVEN HIM BY THE NETHERLANDS CHARGE' HERE. UPON STUDY OF THE TOPIC HE REALIZED HOW ACUTE THE SITUATION OF ZONE LOCKED STATES WAS IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN AND HOW SEEMINGLY LACKING IN OTHER THAN FORMAL LOGIC THE PROPOSED LOS SOLUTION WAS.

3. RATHER THAN RELEGATE MOST OF THE ISLAND STATES OF THE CARIBBEAN TO PERPETUALLY MINISCULE SEGMENTS OF THE SEA RESOURCE AREA, OR ENGAGE IN ENDLESS SQUABBLES OVER WHO SHOULD GET WHAT, DR. WILLIAMS ESSENTIALLY PROPOSES THAT ALL STATES OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN (INCLUDING NON-REGIONAL STATES SUCH AS THE USG, UK, NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE WHO HAVE TERRITORIES IN THE CARIBBEAN) SHOULD JOIN IN A SPECIAL MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL ARCHIPELAGO REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN. DR. WILLIAMS DEPARTED TRINIDAD TODAY FOR

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HAVANA WHERE HE HAS SPECIAL HOPES TO ELICIT CASTRO'S SUPPORT FOR SUCH A CONCEPT IN PLACE OF THE MORE GENERAL 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, SINCE DESPITE CUBA'S SIZE AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE IN THE CARIBBEAN SHE WOULD BE SEVERELY ZONE-LOCKED BY CURRENT PROPOSALS.

4. DR. WILLIAMS FEELS PROPOSAL FOR MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL SOLUTION SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE AND DEVELOPED ACCORDING TO

WISHES OF ALL INVOLVED. ESSENTIALLY, HOWEVER, HE PROPOSES THAT ALL OF CARIBBEAN OUTSIDE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEAS SHOULD BE AREA COMMON TO ALL, WITH ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION AND BENEFITS TO BE SHARED BY ALL. FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND OVERFLIGHT WOULD BE GUARANTEED.

5. AT THIS STAGE, WILLIAMS HOPES TO CONSULT WITH AND ELICIT SUPPORT OF ISLAND STATES AND METROPOLITAN CAPITALS OF ISLAND TERRITORIES SINCE IT IS THE STATES IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA WHICH ARE MOST ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CURRENT LOS PROSPECTS. ONLY IF SUFFICIENT ENTHUSIASM AND UNANIMITY OF OUTLOOK CAN BE GENERATED FROM THIS GROUP DOES HE INTEND TO TAKE DIALOGUE TO MAINLAND STATES (VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, PANAMA, COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, AND MEXICO) WHO ALSO WOULD HAVE TO BE INVOLVED. HE WISHES TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER BOTH BECAUSE OF RELEVANCE FOR PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS AND BECAUSE HE CONSIDERS USG SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING ESSENTIAL TO ELICIT SUFFICIENT MOMENTUM BEHIND CONCEPT OF A SPECIAL COOPERATIVE SEA REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN AREA.

6. IN DISCUSSING ABSURDITY OF PROSPECTIVE DIVIDING UP OF CARIBBEAN SEA, DR. WILLIAMS INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD INFORMATION THAT VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE PLANES HAD STRAFED MARTINIQUEAN FISHERMEN JUNE 6 NEAR UNINHABITED ROCKS WEST OF GUADELOUPE KNOWN AS BIRD ISLAND AND ON BASIS OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER WHICH VENEZUELA WOULD BE ABLE TO CLAIM ONE-FIFTH OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA IN ITS ECONOMIC ZONE. (N.B. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE INFORMS ME HE HAD NOT HEARD OF BIRD ISLAND INCIDENT REFERRED TO BY WILLIAMS, BUT SECOND HAND PRESS REPORT APPEARED TODAY IN LOCAL PAPER TO THIS EFFECT).

7. COMMENT: WILLIAMS HAS LAUNCHED AN EFFORT TO DEAL WITH
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WHAT APPEARS TO BE VERY REAL INEQUITIES IN EMERGING FUTURE
LAW OF THE SEA REGIME FOR CROWDED CARIBBEAN SEA. SUCCESS

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 USSS-00 SY-05 /131 W
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P R 182030Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7944

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 1500

OF HIS PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON ALMOST
UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT BY ALL STATES DIRECTLY CONCERNED IN
CARIBBEAN BASIN AND THEREFORE DIFFICULTIES ARE FORMIDABLE
IN EVEN WINNING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, LET ALONE
DETERMINING THE DETAILS OF ANY FORMULA AS TO HOW THE
MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL REGIME WOULD PROCEED TO LICENSE
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF APPORTION INCOME.

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BEGIN SECRET AND XGDS-1

8. GOTT LAW OF THE SEA EXPORT LENNOX BALLAH HAS PRIVATELY
EXPRESSED TO ME SOME CAVEATS WHICH ABRIDGE HI OWN
ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S INITIATIVE. HE NOTED
THAT DUTCH PAPER WHICH WAS RECENTLY GIVEN TO WILLIAMS AND
WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE SPARKED CURRENT INITIATIVE HAS BEEN

CIRCULATING SINCE CARACAS LOS MEETING AND HAS BEEN USED BY DUTCH TO TRY TO SOLIDIFY BLOCK OF "GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED" STATES IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS. POINTING OUT THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER REGIONS IN THE WORLD WHICH HAVE PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO CARIBBEAN (E.G. PERSIAN GULF, AEGEAN SEA, MEDITERRANEAN, NORTH SEA, SOUTH CHINA SEA) HE FELT INITIATIVES TO DEVELOP SPECIAL CASE SOLUTIONS CAN BE THREATENING TO OVERALL LOS NEGOTIATIONS UNLESS VERY CAREFULLY HANDLED. PLEASE PROTECT THESE COMMENTS, FOR BALLAH WOULD BE IN DEEP TROUBLE IF ANY HINT OF HIS COMMENTS TO ME SHOULD EVER GET BACK TO PRIME MINISTER.

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BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

9. IN VIEW OF COMPLEXITY OF THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT LINKAGE IN PRIME MINISTER'S THINKING WITH HIS PERCEPTION OF VENEZUELA'S THREAT TO THE CARIBBEAN, EMBASSY IS SENDING TEXT OF LAW OF THE SEA PORTION OF WILLIAMS' JUNE 15 SPEECH BY SEPTTEL AND WE HAVE MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO DELIVER ENTIRE TEXT OF SPEECH TO ARA/CAR FRIDAY MORNING (JUNE 20) HAND CARRIED BY EMBOFF PROCEEDING ON R&R LEAVE. ADDITIONAL COPY WILL BE POUCHED.

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